

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EURE-00 SSO-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 AID-05 /087 W

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P R 101727Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4915

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: SOARES ON THE CURRENT SCENE

REF LISBON 6618 DTG 071645Z NOV 75

1. DURING BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH DCM EVENING NOVEMBER 7,
SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DEBATE WITH CUNHAL: SOARES SAID HE WAS PLEASED
WITH THE RESULT OF HIS NATIONWIDE TV DEBATE WITH COMMUNIST
PARTY LEADER CUNHAL (REFTEL). SAID SOCIALIST PARTY HEAD-
QUARTERS HAD RECEIVED OVER ONE THOUSAND CALLS AND CABLES
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FAVORING HIM AND 26 FAVORING CUNHAL. USEFUL AS THIS WAS,

HE ADDED, IT WAS NOT REALLY POPULAR SUPPORT THAT HE HAD HOPED TO GARNER DURING THE LENGTHY CONFRONTATION WITH CUNHAL. RATHER HE WAS ADDRESSING HIMSELF DIRECTLY TO THE MILITARY. SOARES SAID THAT MILITARY REACTION TO HIS DEBATE WITH CUNHAL WAS GOOD.

-- POLICE ACTIONS: SOARES ATTACHED PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE USE OF POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO CLEAR AWAY COMMUNIST-LED DEMONSTRATORS FROM MINISTRIES OF LABOR AND COMMUNICATIONS. HE SAID THIS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN QUITE SOME TIME AND THAT IT WAS COMPLETELY NECESSARY. SOARES ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT KNEW IT HAD TO RESTORE ORDER, THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT, BUT THAT IT HAD TO BE DONE.

-- AMBASSADOR'S TRAVEL: SOARES SAID HE HAD NOTED CRITICISM IN THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LISBON PRESS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO NORTHERN PORTUGAL, AND ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT BE INHIBITED BY SUCH INSPIRED PRESS ARTICLES.

2. COMMENT: SOARES WAS BASKING IN THE GLOW OF WHAT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED HERE AS A STRONG SHOWING AGAINST CUNHAL ON TV NOVEMBER 6/7. AT THE SAME TIME, HE APPEARED REALISTIC REGARDING THE GOP'S ABILITY TO WIN THROUGH AGAINST ITS OPPONENTS, AND NOT EXCESSIVELY EUPHORIC OR GLOOMY AS HE HAS BEEN ON OTHER OCCASIONS. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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